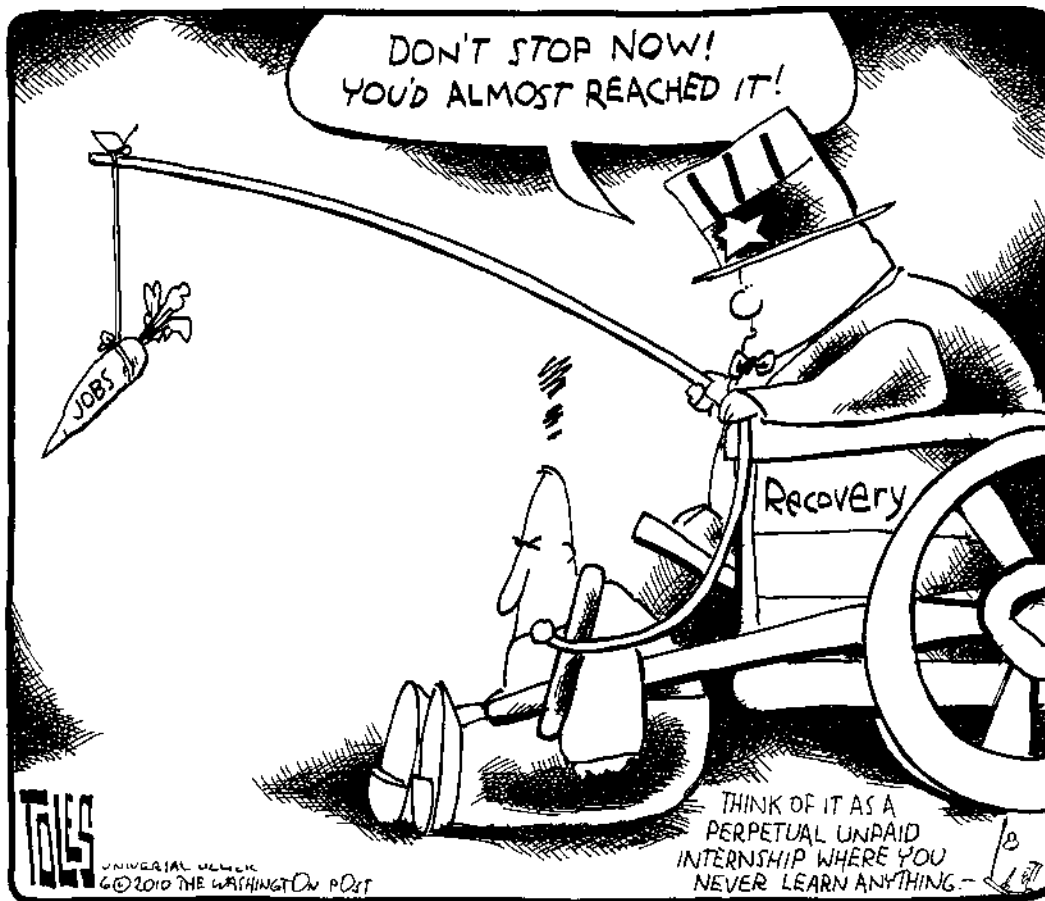


Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Cartoon by Tom Toles (c) 2010, The Washington Post.
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Losing patience with The Recovery

Between the lines

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) scores the recession as officially starting in December, 2007. Now 31 months later, with unemployment still near 10% and the work force still declining, NBER says it still cannot determine an official end to the recession. The longest recession since World War II previously has been 16 months, with the average being 10 months. By next month, the period since the last recession started will be twice as long as the previous postwar recession record.

The American Spectator, July 10, 2010
<http://goo.gl/GkQL>

Talking points

1. In Tom Toles view, will the recovery ever reach the jobs goal? How can you tell? Yet the government (represented by Uncle Sam) keeps telling the frustrated people: "Almost there." Why?
2. Explain the artist's note in the bottom right corner. Do you think the cartoonist supports the government efforts?
3. A political cartoonist strives to simplify a complex issue to get a message across and give you a fresh perspective on it. List the symbols Toles used here to achieve that goal concisely.

Additional resources

More by Tom Toles
<http://www.gocomics.com/tomtoles>

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>